

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – STRONTIUM-90 LABORATORY PROCEDURES

The Navy continues to be methodical while conducting radiological retesting at the former Hunters Point Naval Shipyard (HPNS) to ensure protection of public health.

Strontium-90 is a radionuclide the Navy is measuring as part of the Parcel G radiological rework. The Navy collaborated with chemists and regulatory agencies to refine the laboratory method for strontium-90 to provide more precise results. These questions and answers address the updated strontium-90 analysis and next steps.

### **What happened?**

Approximately 10% of samples analyzed have indicated elevated strontium-90 levels. To verify sample results, the Navy has re-analyzed some of these samples. To date, the reanalysis has not verified the strontium-90 levels from the initial results. The Navy, working with regulatory agencies and chemists, have identified refinements to the laboratory procedure that would produce more precise analytical results.

### **What exactly is changing?**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) method for identifying strontium (EPA Method 905.0 MOD) will continue to be used. The Navy has requested that the laboratory refine the method to achieve a lower detection level and more precision. To do this, the laboratory will adjust their internal procedures. The adjustments will include increasing the soil sample size (2.5 grams compared to the previous 1 gram) and increasing the laboratory procedure timeframe (14 days compared to the previous 7 days). The Navy will reanalyze all Parcel G soil samples using the updated method.

### **Is there reason to be concerned about strontium-90 at HPNS?**

No. There is no reason to be concerned. Strontium-90 lab results to date have not indicated levels considered a risk to human health or the environment.

### **Is this change allowed?**

Yes. Both the Navy work plan for the Parcel G retesting work and the EPA's laboratory method for strontium-90 allow for adjustments.

### **Do the regulatory agencies support changing the method for strontium?**

Yes. The Navy worked with regulatory agencies and chemists to refine the laboratory method to provide greater certainty in the lab results. Regulatory agencies agree that the improved method will provide more precise data for comparison to our remedial goals.

### **What's next?**

The Navy will reanalyze all of the Parcel G strontium-90 soil samples collected to date. The Navy will continue to provide the community updates on the Parcel G retesting work and results through our website, community meetings, and quarterly reports.